

## The National Republican.

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**Advertisements.**  
 NATIONAL.—Mr. John McCullough.  
 FOREIGN.—The Honorable.  
 CONGRESS.—Harry Montague.  
 DIME MISCELLANEOUS.—Matters and evening performance.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1884.

The tornado that swept over Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina was without a parallel in this country, so far as the destruction of life is concerned. In Georgia, where its greatest fury was spent, it is reported that over three hundred men, women, and children were killed outright.

The New York Herald yesterday had a somber appearance on account of the broad black lines between its columns. The paper was in mourning for the victims of the Jeanette exploring expedition, whose bodies arrived by the steamer Frisia on Wednesday. Inasmuch as these men lost their lives in an undertaking devised by the Herald for the promotion of science and its own glory, the exhibition of the emblems of grief over the disastrous failure was entirely appropriate.

The Virginia legislature is so busy with its partisan schemes that it could not afford to adjourn over on Washington's birthday. The election of two readjusters to the house of delegates from Norfolk breaks the two-thirds majority by which the bourgeois have been overriding the governor's veto; so it was deemed important to get the congressional apportionment bill out of the way before the new members had time to appear and qualify, and the twenty-second of February was accordingly devoted to railroadings the bill through both houses.

SALMI MORSE, who a year ago was prevented by the courts from bringing out the "Passion Play," of which he was the author, in New York city, after he had made elaborate preparations for its production, committed suicide yesterday by jumping into the North river. While the contest over his play was in progress he was frequently called a "crank," and the manner of his death will confirm the very general belief that the term was not wholly misplaced. Although a man of fair ability, his strange infatuation with the "Passion Play" could only be accounted for on the theory that his brain was disordered.

It is now twenty years since the democracy held a national nominating convention in Chicago. For that purpose it has always been a favorite city with the republicans, and every candidate selected by them there has been easily elected. The one convention held there by the democracy during the dark days of '64 was marked by its infamously cowardly and disloyal platform—so disloyal that McClellan repudiated it while accepting the dubious honor of the nomination. The younger generation of voters who nowadays hear northern democratic leaders, when occasion serves, claiming that the northern democracy of that day was first and foremost in defense of the union cause, should hunt up that platform and compare it with their professions of twenty years later. It is a very interesting historical reading, but of a sort concerning which northern democrats think the less said the better.

There is a bill before congress for the pensioning of all members of the metropolitan police force and of the fire department disabled in the line of duty. There is now a policeman's fund of over \$25,000. Since 1870 there have been over thirty policemen "retired" from the force because of disease contracted or injuries sustained in the service. Would it not be well that this policeman's fund be distributed pro rata among these hitherto disabled men as an amendment to the pension bill? There are a number of these retired men who, by reason of their bulldog fidelity to duty, have been cast, so to speak, like old horses on the commons to die. It is a shame to the government and much more a shame to the district authorities. There is but one course of justice—either make the pension retroactive to these men, or otherwise give them a share of the policeman's fund, which, after the passage of the bill, will be made a kind of general fund for the district commissioners to deal with at pleasure. Indeed, it will be one of those loose funds, which, like the wind in the Holy Writ, "bloweth where it listeth, but man's not tell whence it cometh."

Strike the fall of Sinkat and the massacre of its garrison England has been making strenuous exertions to prepare and send an expeditionary force to the relief of Tokar. So far as the main object of the expedition is concerned it is a failure, for the telegraph brings the news of its surrender to the rebels. It does not appear from the manager particulars that the garrison was so hard pressed that its surrender was a military necessity. A part of the defending force seems to have even refused to join in what was probably a treacherous action, and made their escape successfully to Suakin.

The news of the surrender caused great excitement in London and led to a hasty meeting of the cabinet to consider the situation. One effect no doubt will be the closing in of Osman Digna's successful forces around Suakin, for that is now about the only point of importance in that region left unconquered by the doughty Arab. His successful career, so far, has given him a large following, but the British have now, or will have within a few days, quite a formidable force at Suakin, and when Osman's hordes come in contact with British troops they will face very different material from

the indifferent soldiers they triumphed over at Trinkitat, Sinkat, and Tokar, and will probably receive a lesson that will make a profound impression in the Sudan. The effect of the fall of Tokar upon English public opinion will force the government to send their troops out in search of Osman if the latter should prove too shrewd to lead his followers to attack Suakin, for when John Bull goes to the trouble of sending out such an expedition as the one sent to the Red Sea littoral under Gen. Graham, somebody is bound to get hurt before it is allowed to return.

## Dollar Bonds of the Confederacy.

Certain holders of worthless confederate securities in London have procured the publication of an opinion by Mr. J. Barr Robertson to the effect that the foreign creditors of citizens of the southern states, who were obliged to accept confederate bonds in payment for goods delivered before the war, have an equitable claim against the United States government which ought to be admitted and paid. Mr. Robertson says that he makes no pretensions to being a lawyer, but it is difficult to see why anybody but a lawyer should be asked to give an opinion upon so difficult a legal question. By way of disclaimer he goes into an elaborate argument to show that the confederate states, being an illegal corporation according to United States law, could not issue bonds which would bind the United States or any separate state. Nobody disputes this proposition. When the confederacy collapsed, its promises to pay went with it, and upon no principle of international law could the United States be asked to pay a debt contracted in the prosecution of a gigantic rebellion. The fourth section of the fourteenth amendment to the constitution is merely declaratory of the existing law upon this subject.

Mr. Robertson admits that so far as the so-called "dollar bonds" were issued for the benefit of the confederate government they have no validity, and that the holder who exchanged his money for them is entitled to no relief. He took all the risks when he invested in a hazardous loan, and when the contingency which alone gave them value became impossible he had nothing to do but to bear the loss. The so-called "cotton bonds" have no better standing. At the time these bonds were issued two eminent English lawyers gave an opinion that it would not be a violation of any law of Great Britain or of any principle of international law to advertise the loan and sell the bonds in England; but these eminent lawyers did not say that in the event of the failure of the confederacy the United States government would pay its obligations. Six eminent continental jurists, however, have given an opinion to the effect that the confederate loans are binding upon the separate states which composed the confederacy.

Mr. Robertson does not concur in the reasoning which these jurists employ, or the conclusions which they reach. The claims he regards as valid are those of foreign citizens, mostly English, Dutch, and French merchants, to whom citizens of the southern states became largely indebted before the war. After the breaking out of hostilities, the debtors remitted confederate bonds in payment of the balances due. The creditors were obliged to accept this currency, because they could get nothing else. The debts had no connection with the war, and the bonds were not purchased for the purpose of aiding the rebellion. For this reason Mr. Robertson maintains that the holders of these bonds have a valid claim against the United States government, and also the governments of the late seceded states. The question as to how the particular bonds used in this way are to be identified from those which were purchased as an investment is disposed of with the suggestion that the English, Dutch, and French governments will undertake to distribute the amount respectively due their citizens, and that the United States need go to no further trouble than to make an award of the aggregate sum. This is very obliging, but it is not likely that the United States government will ever impose this duty upon any foreign power. The payment of the "dollar bonds" has been indefinitely postponed, and it will take the opinion of a number of eminent jurists to convince the plain people of this country that the redemption, even of those which were sent to foreigners in payment of just debts, is not absolutely barred by the fourth section of the fourteenth amendment.

## Characteristic Intolerance.

A large number of the "best citizens" of Danville, Va., have been summoned before Senator Sherman's investigating committee as witnesses to prove that a liberal, tolerant, and pacific spirit obtains among the bourgeois democrats of that city. Such of them as have been examined have denied all knowledge of any intention or desire on the part of those whom they represent to interfere in any way with the civil and political rights of the colored people, or to hinder them in the exercise of these rights. They have further said that a great deal of forbearance was practiced by the democrats toward their political opponents for the sake of maintaining the peace, and that sensitive and courageous men submitted to insult rather than engage in a quarrel which might give rise to a charge of political intimidation. It is true that some of these witnesses admitted that they had fired into a crowd of colored people without any regard as to who might be killed, but they contended that this was done in self-defense and from a high sense of public duty.

While these representatives of the "best citizens" of Danville are in Washington testifying to the absence of political intimidation and social ostracism, the white majority of the city is vainly struggling to get its semi-annual report before the council. The law requires him to present this document, but the council declines to receive it. As is generally known, Mayor Johnson was elected by the readjusters, and for this reason he is held in low esteem by the bourgeois, although the high-toned gentlemen who applied insulting epithets to him in their testimony before the Sherman committee could specify no bad act, except that he had killed one of the "best

citizens" some two years ago. The fact was subsequently brought out that Mr. Johnson had been tried for this homicide and acquitted, because it was proven that the "good" citizen was attempting to kill the mayor at the time he lost his life. This homicide, however, is not the reason given for returning to him his official report.

This document is simply a statement of the receipts and expenditures of the municipal government for the six months ending Dec. 31, 1883, with a schedule of the outstanding debt and an inventory of the property of the corporation appended thereto. The mayor also makes some recommendations concerning the refunding of the bonded debt of the city, and suggests that a committee be appointed to prepare certain amendments to the city charter. This thoroughly formal and commonplace report winds up with a brief reference to the riot of Nov. 3, in which four colored men were killed and four colored and two white men were wounded. There is not a word in the mayor's comments that the most sensitive bourgeois could construe as offensive to himself or his party, unless it is found in this paragraph:

In my judgment this conflict was altogether unnecessary and never should have occurred. It has greatly damaged our town in reputation and character throughout the civilized world, wherever known.

On Jan. 12 this report was handed to the president of the council to be laid before that body. The president broke the seal, read the report, and communicated the contents to others. The document was afterwards read at a meeting of the council, and, on motion of Mr. Gerst, "a resolution was adopted that said report be returned, because it contains matter not relevant and that ought not to be considered." The mayor was anxious that the people should see the report, and he accordingly took it to the office of the Daily Register and asked that it be inserted as an advertisement at his own personal expense, but the editor refused to publish it.

The only way in which Mayor Johnson could get his report before the people was to have it printed in pamphlet form and privately distributed. And yet we have "good" citizens of Danville testifying before the Sherman committee that the democrats of that town believe in free discussion and untrammelled political action.

## Anti-Mortem Probate of Wills.

A bill is now pending before the New York legislature which provides that a testator may bring his last will and testament into court and have it probated and put on record. His testamentary capacity will be passed upon at the same time, and if he is found to be sane and competent to make a will this question cannot be raised after his death. There seems to be a good deal of merit in the proposed law. Estates are frequently wasted in litigation over disputed wills. The issues involved are generally as to whether the will is genuine and whether the testator was free from undue influences and was of sound mind at the time he made it. These questions being settled during the life of the testator, his heirs and legatees cannot impeach the record after his death. The unpleasant family secrets which are frequently dragged into light during the contests which often arise over disputed bequests and legacies will be allowed to remain in the grave, and the scandal mongers will be deprived of many an unsavory morsel.

There is a possibility that the eminent lawyers who make a business of breaking wills may find reasons why the mental conditions of a testator should not be inquired into during his life, but persons whose occupation is imperilled are not always able to see things in their true light. The most obvious objection to the ante-mortem probate of a will is the fact that the testator may change his mind before he dies, in which case he will be obliged to go to considerable trouble to amend his recorded will, and if he happens to be approaching dissolution it may be impossible to carry out his wishes. If the original instrument can be changed or annulled by an unrecorded codicil, nothing will be gained, because the same questions will arise with regard to the codicil that would have arisen with regard to the will if it had been executed at the same time.

The anniversary of the Father of His Country was generally observed throughout the country, business being suspended, and parades of military and civic organization taking place in most cities. The holiday remembrance of the occasion was changed to one of sadness in New York as the imposing but solemn procession escorted the remains of the victims of the Jeanette exploring expedition to the building where they will lie until to-day, when the funeral services will be held. In Washington, where the celebration should be most extensive, there was but a small parade, though there were numerous festive gatherings at night. The oldest inhabitants appropriately remembered the day by an oration and the reading of Washington's farewell address.

The holiday voted in respect to the memory of the Father of His Country caused the overworked personal clerks of the senators to sigh because we have not a defunct mother of our country also.

EDITOR McCLELLAN'S paper has a crushed and chastened tone, as it were, since last Tuesday's election returns came in.

CHICAGO captured the convention. This is as it should be.

## The McPherson Bill.

The house committee on banking and currency yesterday agreed to take a final vote Tuesday next on a bill identical with the McPherson bill now under consideration in the senate. It was intended to have voted on that measure this morning but, as it had not yet passed the senate, and as it was thought the bill might be amended before final action is taken by that body on Monday, a postponement was deemed advisable.

## The Young of New York.

When a Marcus girl wants her fellow to go home she takes down her back hair. As Mrs. girls take of their dresses. Fashion girls say: "It's time for my dearest Charles to undress his evening gown and his away to his paternal domain." The fashionable girls are more practical and less demonstrative, they simply say, "Sonny, time's up; git."

## ON THE AVENUE.

## Small Talk About Men and Measures.

"That fellow is a character," said the business manager of John McCullough, as he pointed to a short, squarely built man with a florid complexion, who was standing in front of the stage entrance to the National theater. "Who is he; an actor?" asked the Avenue Man.

"No; that is Bob Fritchard, better known as McCullough's Bob. He is the governor's dresser, and has been with him for about thirteen years. Bob has a weakness for the ardent, and sometimes gets a little too much on board, when the governor will discharge him. But he is always taken back, for he knows Mr. McCullough's ways so well, so he is so thoroughly familiar with his wardrobe, and is really such a valuable dresser that his occasional shortcomings are forgiven. An instance of his value was shown last year."

"You remember, McCullough played Ingomar at the Boston theater to Mary Anderson's Parthenia. Well, the morning of the day on which the governor was to leave New York for the Hub Bob turned up rather the worse for wear, and the governor summarily dismissed him, told him to go off and never to show his face again. Bob went away and immediately sought Billy Conner, to whom he related his misfortune. 'I'm fired for good now,' said he, with tears in his eyes. 'The governor's awful mad.' Conner knew better, and so he told Bob to go home and sleep until afternoon and then to come back and see him."

"In the meantime the 'governor' had started for Boston, without taking a bit of wardrobe, and was in a horrible stew to know what he should do. Miss Anderson, who was on the train, suggested that the next day they could get up early and go to some costumeur's in Boston and get something that would do. This didn't please Mac much, for he is not an easy man to fit, you know, but he thought that was the best thing that could be done. He reached Boston in an unenviable frame of mind, and put up at the Tremont house."

"Where was I all this time?" "Hold on and I'll tell you. Bob went home and slept, and went to see Conner in the afternoon all right. Conner told him to get together everything that the 'governor' would want in Ingomar, and to go to Boston on the night train, and go to the 'governor' at his hotel in the morning as though nothing had happened. Bob did so, and when the 'governor' came down early the next morning there was Bob sitting at the foot of the stairs. 'Hello, Bob,' said Mr. McCullough, 'have you got everything all right for Ingomar?'"

"Yes, sir," replied he, "just as you told me, sir." "You ought to hear the governor tell the story. 'When I saw Bob sitting there that morning,' says he, 'I felt that I could have put my arms around him and hugged the Scotch cuss.'"

"Why can't we have a musical festival here?" asked a prominent musician yesterday. "I don't mean a little one for a cent, but a grand affair, such as they are going to have in Boston in April. They were making preparations for a Wagner festival, at which selections from 'Parsifal' will be given by an immense orchestra and a chime of bells, which is demanded by the score, and which are being made at a cost of \$3,000. A chorus of 600 voices is now in active rehearsal for the festival, and the applications already made for seats indicate the financial success of the affair. Mr. Theodore Thomas will have entire charge, and the soloists will include Materna, Herr, Winkelman, and Scarra. Now, why can't we have a festival in, say, May?"

And THE REPUBLICAN asks why cannot this be done?

Sir Randall Roberts, who is now in the city as the business manager of the Charles Wyndham Comedy company, which will appear at Ford's opera house next Monday, has had quite a remarkable career. Educated at Harrow, he entered the British army in 1853 and served in the 33rd regiment of infantry until his retirement in 1861, during which period he went through the Crimean war, and also saw active service in the Sepoy rebellion in India. During the Franco-Prussian war Sir Randall accompanied the 1st Prussian corps in the field as special correspondent of the London Daily Telegraph, showing many instances of great personal courage. At the storming of Spichern he picked up a wounded soldier of the 8th Brandenburg regiment within fifty feet of the French lines and carried him on his back to a place of safety. He performed other heroic acts and was twice wounded, and in recognition of his services the German emperor conferred upon him the order of the Iron Cross, the only one ever bestowed upon an Englishman. He also wears the ribbon of the Legion of Honor of France, the cross of St. Maurice, and Lanza of Italy, the Crimean and Indian mutiny medals, and the war medal of Germany of 1870.

In 1876 the baronet came to America. At first he was in newspaper work, and during the Russo-Turkish war he was foreign editor of the Boston Daily Advertiser. He is the author of "Progress," a drama purchased by the Madison Square theater, and is the father of a couple of novels. He has contributed to the American art galleries in water colors. During Mr. Wyndham's engagement here he will assume the character of the governor of the jail in "Fourteen Days."

"I have been so long in America," said he, "that I almost look upon it as my native land, and I am as glad to again see the dome of the capitol as that of St. Paul's. I have made many warm friends in this country, whom I esteem very highly."

"Did you ever know Col. Baker, or Baker Pasha, as he is now generally called?" "Oh, yes, very well. He and I were together in the Crimea and in the valley of the Alma. Baker, who was then a captain in the 10th Hussars, did some gallant work. I don't know what his capabilities are as a general, but he was a splendid light cavalry soldier, and as brave a man as could be found anywhere. There is no doubt that in that episode with Miss Dickinson he was the victim of a conspiracy, and he would have been afterwards reinstated in his position in society and rank in the service had he wished, but he preferred to remain in Turkey. It shows how much of a gentleman the man was, as when he was on cross-examination he declined to answer certain questions rather than betray any weaknesses concerning the lady which he had a knowledge of. Of course Miss Dickinson had a sort of position in society and was the sister of a brother officer, but that Baker was entrapped is generally believed. I don't say he was an angel; I don't think any of us are; but he wasn't as bad as they tried to make him out to be."

A young man wearing the latest style of silk hats, and sporting upon his upper lip mustache No. 23, bought two tickets for the National theater Thursday night. He was accompanied by a young and pretty girl who, when she spoke, did so with the most modern "flap." The clerk at the office gave the young man desirable seats. They went inside and took their places and listened to the strains

of the orchestra until the curtain arose. The play was "The Gladstons," and the young gentleman and his companion watched the acting with intense interest. When the curtain went down on the second act, just after a well sustained love scene between Julia and Lennox, the young man murmured pensively, "Even the Romans loved, didn't they?" "Yes, and isn't it delightful," replied the maid, breathing a pretty sigh.

"Did you ever love," asked he, his breath coming in short gasps and his mustache trembling with emotion.

"Oh, how foolish. What made you ask? Why, that is—er—did you?" replied she, blushing and looking quietly around.

"Yes; and I—here the young man stopped, conscious that he was attracting attention.

"You're what?" asked the girl desperately.

"Well, er—er—that is I love you and—Oh, yes. I love you and we will get married right away and go to housekeeping, and pa was saying yesterday that—Oh, but what am I saying?" said she, in confusion and what breath.

At this juncture the music stopped and they watched the play, turning occasionally to bestow glowing glances on each other.

"The people sitting behind them say that he squeezed her arm, but one lady said that he shyly put his arm around his girl's waist."

"Mark me," said the New Yorker, "this row between Hewitt and Belmont will be fixed up now in short order. Ex-Representative Flower, who has hopes of the presidential nomination, has taken a hand in this matter and will enact the role of peacemaker. It has gone far enough already to breed a lot of trouble among a certain class of Democratic voters in New York city, and influence enough will be brought to bear upon Mr. Belmont to convince him that he cannot afford to allow his personal prejudices to guide him in pursuing a course that will make no end of trouble in this presidential year. Mr. Belmont will allow a peace to be declared—in fact, the preliminary steps have already been taken, and the house committee on foreign affairs will bury it out of sight."

"Oh, how will this suit Mr. Hewitt?" "Oh, this thing has been a hot horse hog for him to hold, and he is very willing to drop it without further talk."

"Yes," said Old Statistics, "the whisky bill is to be reported to-day, and there are a good many representatives of the whisky interest now in the city. The house galleries will be full of 'em to-day, and any representative who expects to antagonize this measure had better look sharp, or he will find it tough work to make his calling and election sure for the next house. The rough riding whisky people are in dead earnest. It is a vital matter to them, and they stand ready to put up all the money necessary to defeat every man who opposes the bonded extension bill."

"But will they do that far?" "Certainly. This phase of the situation has been canvassed by the executive committee of the Distillers' association of the United States, and the word has been passed along the line to spot every representative who opposes this bill, and to quietly intimate to all such that if they persist in this opposition they will find it exceedingly difficult to secure re-election. I tell you, between whisky and railroads, it has come to a point where the average congressman will find it very difficult to dodge taking one side or the other."

"Do you know the cost of these high-priced canaries that Abbey and Mapleson are showing off to the country?" asked a well known operative manager of the Avenue Man. Well, I know the figures, and here are some of them. Patti is paid \$5,000 a night, Nilsson \$2,000 per night, Sembrich and Gerster \$1,900 each per night. Sopranos of the first quality get the highest salaries. Next in value come the tenors, who can climb the high notes with grace and agility. Mezzo sopranos and barytones are a drug in the market, especially the barytones, unless they are phenomenally good. Contraltos and basses of the best quality are far below sopranos and tenors. For example, Campanini and Stagno get \$8,000 per month each, while Seacchi, the finest contralto in America, if not in the world, receives \$5,000 per month. Trebelli gets \$2,500 monthly, Valeria \$4,000, Kaschnmann \$3,000, Del Puente \$2,500, Capone \$2,500, and Galazzi \$3,000. These figures are correct, and serve to show you that the golden plumage of these canaries comes legitimately by its color."

MR. MORRISON'S SUBSTITUTE.  
 A New Scheme for the Relief of the Overloaded Whisky Men.

Mr. Morrison has offered in the ways and means committee a substitute for the bill under discussion in the committee on the extension of the bonded whisky period. The substitute provides that the bonded period shall be extended not exceeding two years from the date the tax was or would have fallen due. It further provides that such extension shall not be made in any case unless a new warehousing bond in a penal sum, not less than the amount of the tax, be paid in full for the time of the extension, and within five years from the date of the original entry of such spirits for deposit in warehouse. When any distilled spirits upon which the time for the payment of the tax shall have become extended under the provisions of the act are re-warehoused for withdrawal from warehouse the allowance for loss shall be no more than is now authorized for a warehousing period of three years and the tax and interest on the tax at the rate above named shall be collected also upon any excess of loss found upon such goods at the time of the withdrawal of such spirits.

The committee will probably vote upon Mr. Morrison's bill to-day.

The Old Gentleman's Mistake.

"Nice child, very nice child," observed an old gentleman, crossing the aisle and addressing the mother of the boy who had just hit him in the eye with a wad of paper. "How old are you, my son?" "None of your business," replied the youngster, taking aim at another passenger. "Fine boy," smiled the old man, as the parent regarded her offspring with pride. "A remarkably fine boy. What is your name, my son?" "Puddin' Tams," shouted the youngster, with a giggle at his own wit. "I thought so," continued the old man, pleasantly. "If you had a son three years older than this, that would have been the first I would have struck out. Now, Puddin', you can blow those things pretty straight, can't you?" "You bet!" squealed the boy, delighted at the compliment. "See me take that old fellow over there!" "No, no," exclaimed the old gentleman, "I'll let it go. If you had a son three years older than this, that would have been the first I would have struck out. Now, Puddin', you can blow those things pretty straight, can't you?" "You bet!" squealed the boy, delighted at the compliment. "See me take that old fellow over there!" "No, no," exclaimed the old gentleman, "I'll let it go. If you had a son three years older than this, that would have been the first I would have struck out. Now, Puddin', you can blow those things pretty straight, can't you?" "You bet!" squealed the boy, delighted at the compliment. "See me take that old fellow over there!"

An old bachelor German immigrant 67 years of age, who is tilling the soil in Dakota, tiring of a solitary life, but finding no helpmate near, wrote some time ago to his aged mother in Germany, asking her to choose and send him a wife. She replied that she knew the right woman, but she was living in Brazil. She wrote to the woman, however, including the son's photograph, describing him and his life, and proposing to her to share it. "The suggestion found favor in her eyes, and through the mother the son was so informed. Further correspondence followed, giving directions and the means of travel, and a few weeks ago the heroine of this singular triangular courtship came from Brazil to New York, and hence westward to meet her coming husband.

## CURRENT GOSSIP.

## FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING.

When I was young and went to school, in days long since gone by, they told me 'twas a settled rule That figures never lie.

But this idea I have outgrown, And with good reason why; For nowadays it is well known That figures often lie.

The lady upon your love has won, Whose hand to win you'd try, It really is a skeleton— Her figure tells a lie.

She's very short, but seems quite tall From wearing heels so high; Her foot is large, and yet looks small— Her figure boasts a lie.

She seems to be a buxom maid, As plump as pumpkin pie; But 'tis not true—as I have said, Her figure is a lie.

'Tis done with bustle, corsets, stays, And lacing tight; O, lie! By these and many other ways Her figure's made to lie.

So recollect what I have told, And leave a thankful sigh, That you have not as yet been sold By figures that do lie.

—Aaron Fledger.

I saw you once, and in that hour I wrote a sonnet for you, Which said your body seemed a flower, Your soul its fragrance seemed away.

You thought me bold; and now I sigh Because the sorry rhyme I wrote, Alas! a thoughtless wretch was I Who dared compare a flower to you!

—From the Spectator.

J. TOM WILSON, of Terrell, Texas, owned a monkey, which died. Its body was placed in a coffin, funeral notices printed, and preparations made to bury it in the city cemetery. The people protested, and hinted at stonings, and Tom buried his ancestor in the back yard.

A PHYSICIAN in Vienna operated for amaurosis several months ago on a man in his 102d year, and restored his sight, the operation being the first on record. More recently the same physician repeated this operation on a man 96 years of age, and with the same success.

PREPARATIONS will soon be made for building a bridge across the Hudson river at Storm King. It will be constructed on the cantilever principle, and Gen. Field, who built the Niagara cantilever bridge, will be asked to construct it. Ample means have been obtained for the enterprise.

A CORRESPONDENT of the London Electrician gives the following as an instant remedy for tooth-ache: With a small piece of zinc and a bit of silver (any silver coin will do), the zinc placed on one side of the afflicted gum and the silver on the other, by bringing the edges together, the small current of electricity generated immediately and painlessly stops the toothache.

AN official report of the gold mines of North Carolina shows that there are 295 miles, many of which are "placers." The yield of gold is ten times greater than any state east of the Rocky mountains. Scientists estimate that gold exists in no greater quantity there than in North Carolina. In 1883 over \$2,000,000 of New England capital was put in mining machinery.

GERMANY is about to begin the work of mining the Baltic and the North sea by a canal navigable at all hours of the tide by the largest ships. It will extend from a point near the mouth of the Elbe in the Bay of Kiel, a distance of about sixty miles. Germany's ships will thus be able to avoid the perilous passage of the Belt, and an immense stimulus will be given to her foreign commerce and shipping.

ARTIFICIAL cork is among the recent German inventions. The method of production consists in mixing powdered cork with starch and water and kneading the mass while boiling hot until it is thoroughly mixed. This substance is then poured into molds for forming the articles, and afterward dried at a very high temperature. The material is described as quite light, and possesses non-conducting properties.

In the recently London postoffice directory the family of Smiths absorbs fifteen closely printed columns, and the family of Browns eight columns. There exists in London a charity for poor Smiths, left inwards of two centuries ago by an alderman of that name. He gave 41,000 to capives held by Turkish pirates, and the similar sum of 41,000 to poor kinemen. The poor kinemen a few years ago numbered between 100 and 500. The value of the charity is now about \$60,000 a year.

A FOREIGN prince, a "fashionable vicomte," and a plain, unvarnished gambler, are suspected of complicity in the marked-card conspiracy of the Petit Cercle in the Rue Royale of Paris. About \$500,000 were secured by the knaves. The club is the most exclusive coterie in the city, and the communists are naturally anxious to get it into a perilous position. The Parisian papers have leading editorials on the subject every day.

ON one of Horace Greeley's visits to Pike county he nearly trod upon a rattlesnake. A friend killed the snake and afterward had the skin tanned and worked into a pair of slippers, which were presented to the great editor. Mr. Greeley prized them highly until the failure of the Fourth National Bank, when, desiring to see anything that reminded him of Pike county, he gave the slippers to his brother, who now lives in western Pennsylvania, and still retains them in his possession.

THE mahdi is not an Arab by birth and is of a black hue, which is unacceptable to the Semitic Moslems. He belongs, however, to the Kadshir order, which is held in very high veneration in Egypt, and which preserves all the usual superstitions attending the Kadshir, a gnostic shoe of their founder. They are distinguished from other orders by their white banners and by carrying always fish nets in their religious processions. With the Mahdists and Admadshir they are among the most powerful of the Dervish orders in Syria and Egypt.

ONE morning Jerrold and Compton proceeded together to view the pictures in the gallery of illustration. On entering the gallery they found themselves opposite to a number of very long looking glasses. Posing before one of these, Compton remarked to Jerrold, "You've come here to admire works of art; very well, first cast your eyes on that work of nature!" pointing to his own figure reflected in the glass. "Look at it, there's a picture for you!" "Yes," said Jerrold, regarding it intently. "Very nice; very fine, indeed!" Then turning to his friend—"Wau! hanging, though!"

A BRONZE tablet has been placed upon the front of the new Penn National bank building in Philadelphia, Pa., bearing the inscription: "On this site originally stood the dwelling in which Thomas Jefferson drafted the declaration of independence which was adopted by the continental congress in this city July 4, 1776. Erected, 1875; removed, 1883." The Ledger says that the question whether Jefferson drafted the document in the corner house or in the one adjoining on the west still is a matter of dispute, but as the bank building covers both lots the accuracy of the inscription on the tablet is not disputed.

AT El Paso, Texas, the Mexican dollars are worth 50 cents in American coin. At Paso del Rio, just across the river, American dollars are worth 50 cents in Mexican coin. One morning a car driver started from the American side with a Mexican dollar. On his arrival at the Mexican town he took a drink of chain lightning, which was 15 cents, and received an American dollar in change for his Mexican. On his return to the American side he took a drink of equally bad liquor and received a Mexican dollar for his American, and so, repeating the drinks at intervals during the day, at night he closed up business with the Mexican dollar he started with in the morning.